



News Release

United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Lewis and Clark National Forest
P.O. Box 869
Great Falls, MT 59403

June 4, 2002
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION ALTERNATIVE SELECTED

Officials from the Lewis and Clark National Forest and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed an Action Memorandum on May 15, 2002, identifying a cleanup method for the Block P Mill Tailings site in the Hughesville Mining District 12 miles east of Monarch on National Forest System lands. Clean up will include removal of mill tailings from the lower tailings basin adjacent Galena Creek and removal of contaminated soils that migrated onto private lands or deposited along the banks of Dry Fork Belt Creek. The tailings material will be consolidated with material from the upper tailings basin and placed into a geosynthetic clay liner, which will prevent contaminants from leaching into groundwater during rainfall or snowmelt.

The selected cleanup method was one of three proposed in the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis by The Doe Run Resources Company, the current mine owners. Clean up may start this year if the Forest Service, EPA, and The Doe Run Resources Company can agree on an action plan to complete the work.

For more information, call Vern Cromwell, (406) 791-7753. The public may access a copy of the Action Memorandum at the Great Falls Public Library, Monarch Post Office, EPA's Helena office, and the Lewis and Clark Forest Supervisor's Office in Great Falls.

Dan Strausbaugh, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, will provide an update of the human health risk assessment conducted for the Barker-Hughesville and Carpenter-Snow Creek Mining District Superfund sites June 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Belt Creek Ranger Station, U.S Highway 89. Montana EPA representatives also will be present. For more information call Stausbaugh, (406) 457-5007.

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